



Arlington Heights Neighborhood Action Plan Implementation Committee

Date: July 22, 2020

Time: 4:00-5:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96845231234>

Meeting ID: 968 4523 1234

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,96845231234# US

+16468769923,,96845231234# US

Minutes

Attendance: Ali Carter, Economic Development Coordinator; Janet O’Riordan, Old Schwamb Mill Board of Directors; Rob Davison, resident; Len Diggins, ACMi; Rachel Zsembery, Arlington Redevelopment Board; Jason Forney, resident; Michael Rademacher, Director of Public Works

Guests: Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture; Stewart Ikeda, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture; Cecily Miller, Public Art Consultant

1. Public art idea---Jason Forney shared a presentation he put together about community-driven public art he has seen in the area that is responsive to recent calls for social justice in light of incidents of police brutality around the country. Cecily shared upcoming projects has planned with Arlington-based artist Nilou Mochhala and Chanel Thervil (the latter is not available for any projects until 2021). She also shared favela-inspired wall paintings that could be appropriate for the neighborhood, and she shared the work of artist Cedric Douglas who is doing work on monuments and working in conjunction with Nikki McCullough at AHS and a group of students. High school students are working independently.
The committee discussed approaches for getting started with public art projects in the neighborhood. Ideas included:
 - Entrusting a resident with a key to the kiosks at the corner of Mass Ave and Park Ave to install art created by young people in the neighborhood;

- DIY mosaics (inspired by Cedric Douglas' tiles) to be installed in kiosks; Cecily will let AHS teacher know that kiosks are available for students' works;
 - Museum/shrine/activation space at kiosks and/or 1306-1308 Mass Ave storefront;
 - Decorate jersey barriers at Heights parklet;
 - Political/protest art in public areas should be presented to Select Board; don't mix regular placemaking (e.g. parklets) with protest art; clarify AHNAPIC placemaking goals vs. protest art role in community; figure out who is going to support and maintain protest art when there is pushback;
 - An educational component to protest art is important. There needs to be interpretive text and/or programming around it as well;
 - Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) needs partners to get community involved to make any of these projects work and take root in the neighborhood; needs to connect with AHS black alumni group and anti-racism working group at AHS
2. AARP Community Challenge grant---The Town did not get the AARP Community Challenge grant we applied for. Ali will investigate other sources of funding for placemaking and public art projects.
 3. Next steps---Ali will put Cecily in touch with Rob and Jason to walk the neighborhood scouting sites for public art projects.